

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following list of claims is complete and replaces all prior versions. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for identifying a pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell, comprising which comprises detecting the presence of a sugar chain indicative of a expressed on the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell on a potential pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell by using the lectin selected from the group consisting of kidney bean lectin and lentil lectin, wherein said pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell is a cell capable of differentiating into bile ductal cell and hepatocyte.

2. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sugar chain is detected by using an antibody capable of binding to the sugar chain expressed on the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell.

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sugar chain is detected via an expression of an enzyme involved in the synthesis of the sugar chain expressed on the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell.

7. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 6, wherein the expression of the enzyme is detected by at least one means selected from the group consisting of the measurement of an enzyme activity, the measurement of the amount of the enzyme protein and the measurement of an amount of mRNA from a gene encoding the enzyme.

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 6, wherein the enzyme is N-acetylglucosaminyltransferase III, sialyltransferase or a-1,6 fucosyltransferase.

9. (Withdrawn) A method for separating a pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell, comprising sorting the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell using as an index a sugar chain expressed on the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell is sorted by using a protein capable of binding to the sugar chain expressed on the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the protein is a lectin capable of binding to the sugar chain expressed on the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein the sugar chain expressed on the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell comprises a sugar chain structure recognized by at least

one lectin selected from the group consisting of kidney bean lectin, wheat germ lectin, lentil lectin and Aleuria aurantia lectin.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9, wherein the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell is sorted by using an antibody capable of binding to the sugar chain expressed on the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a composition comprising a pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell, comprising the step of separating the pluripotent hepatic progenitor cell by the method of any one of claims 9 to 13.